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Statement submitted by Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Our website (casle.org) gives some background to our activities in the promotion and dissemination of good practice in the management of built and natural resources, including marine environments. Implicit in these activities are our exchanges of information on good practice in the education of professionals and in their lifelong professional development, by means of technical conferences, seminars and publications.

Our discussions in the light of such activities led us to conclude that there is a need to examine the statement describing each Millennium Development Goal and to identify tasks which Surveyors could undertake based on existing skills. This also suggests that we need to identify those professional skills, which could be readily extended to less usual professional work.

Surveyors work in relatively small consultancy practices, or in large units in industry, or local/central government agencies. Much professional work is done for clients who pay a fee, and who are unlikely to fund work outside of their immediate interests. This suggests that progress in developing sustainable development goals from Millennium Development Goals is most likely to be made by providing specific funding by Governments to research groups in industry and universities.

Specifically, it will require national and international planning, publicity and funding to achieve progress.

We suggest that areas such as the following need to be addressed as part of the transition to sustainable development goals:

(a) The role of land law, cadastral surveying, and related practices in generating secure land tenure systems in developing economies, in order to provide a basis for investment in land and marine environments, such as in the agriculture, water, mineral extraction, energy production, and development industries.

(b) The role of the construction and development sectors in national economies in producing sustainable land and construction activity, in order to produce economical and hygienic infrastructure, whilst generating employment for people.

(c) The use, redesign and refurbishment of existing buildings and infrastructure in order to improve living conditions and reduce disease.

(d) The funding and promotion of general and higher education to enable poorer people and women to enter the professions, simultaneously encouraging interest and participation in beneficial technology.

(e) Improving information and communication technologies to spread knowledge and technological improvements to geographical areas currently considered to be uneconomic in location, size and/or scale.

(f) Research in order to clarify the means of achieving sustainability in different physical and economic environments, and to provide data to underpin the dissemination of information.